Claims

[c1]   A method of allocating income to a user savings account
and to payees, said method including:
receiving user financial information, wherein said finan-
cial information includes at least one of user income in-
formation related to user income, user income source
information related to user income sources, user debt
information related to user debts to payees and user
goal information related to user goals;
providing at least one recommendation, wherein said
recommendation includes suggestions for minimizing
user debt payments and maximizing user savings;
establishing a payment hierarchy based at least in part
on said recommendation, wherein said payment hierar-
chy includes at least a portion of said user income allo-
cated to said user savings account and a portion of said
user income allocated to said user debts; acquiring user
income; and,
transferring at least a portion of said user income, based
at least in part upon said payment hierarchy, to at least
one of user savings account and payee.

[c2]   The method of claim 1 further including analyzing a bal-

ance of funds in said user account.

[c3] The method of claim 1 further including analyzing a balance of funds in said user account and allowing said transferring step upon confirmation of sufficient funds.

[c4] The method of claim 1 further including analyzing a balance of funds in said user account and disallowing said transferring step upon confirmation of insufficient funds.

[c5] The method of claim 1 further including analyzing a balance of funds in said user account and, upon confirmation of insufficient funds, at least one of requesting user to modify said payment hierarchy, suggesting modifications to said payment hierarchy and automatically modifying said payment hierarchy.

[c6] The method of claim 1 further including notifying at least one of said user, payee and third party regarding at least on of said acquiring step and said transfer step.

[c7] The method of claim 1 further including notifying at least one of said user, payee and third party prior to said transfer step.

[c8] The method of claim 1 further including notifying at least one of said user, payee and third party prior to said transfer step and obtaining authorization from at least

one of said user, payee and third party prior to said transfer step.

[c9]   The method of claim 1 further including providing a user interface configured to allow said user to view at least one of said recommendations, said payment hierarchy and transfer information.

[c10]   The method of claim 1, further including providing statements to said user, wherein said statements include at least one of user savings account balance, user savings account deposits and user debt payments.

[c11]   The method of claim 1 further including receiving at least one of pre-approval of all transfers and approval of each transfer.

[c12]   The method of claim 1 further including tracking at least one of said user income, user goal information and transfers of user income.

[c13]   The method of claim 1, further including revising said user goal information based in part on said recommendation.

[c14]   The method of claim 1 further including analyzing user goal information.

[c15]   The method of claim 1 further including analyzing user

goal information based upon at least one of user income information, user debt information and financial planning information.

[c16] The method of claim 1 further including analyzing user goal information and providing suggested revisions to said goal information.

[c17] The method of claim 1 further including analyzing user goal information using probability modeling.

[c18] The method of claim 1 further including analyzing user goal information using probability modeling, wherein said probability modeling includes:

forecasting the effects of a proposed situation portfolio on user income;

monitoring at least one of the integrating, comparing, and analyzing the data steps;

simulating at least one of the integrating, comparing, and analyzing the data steps;

designing at least one of the integrating, comparing, and analyzing the data steps; and

testing at least one of the integrating, comparing, and analyzing the data steps.

[c19] The method of claim 1, wherein said step of receiving user financial information includes receiving user finan-

cial information from at least one of said user and a third party database.

[c20] The method of claim 1 wherein said step of receiving user financial information includes receiving user income and depositing user income in a user account.

[c21] The method of claim 1 wherein said step of receiving user financial information includes receiving user income from at least one of said user and said user income source.

[c22] The method of claim 1, wherein said step of receiving user financial information includes receiving user financial information via webpage entries.

[c23] The method of claim 1, wherein said step of receiving user financial information includes receiving user financial information via a menu driven interactive procedure.

[c24] The method of claim 1, wherein said step of providing at least one recommendation includes a recommendation which includes at least one of prioritizing payment of bills, partial payment of bills, determining when to pay at least one bill and determining an amount to pay for at least one bill.

[c25] The method of claim 1, wherein said step of providing at

least one recommendation includes providing at least one recommendation based upon at least one of bill priority information, user goal information, user debt information, minimum amounts due, penalties, interest rates, due dates, available user income, user override selection and user historic selections.

[c26] The method of claim 1, wherein said step of establishing a payment hierarchy includes at least one of said user, guardian, government entity and third party establishing at least a portion of said payment hierarchy.

[c27] The method of claim 1, wherein said step of establishing a payment hierarchy includes providing a capability to alter said payment hierarchy.

[c28] The method of claim 1, wherein said step of establishing a payment hierarchy includes pre-established hierarchy requirements.

[c29] The method of claim 1, wherein said step of establishing a payment hierarchy includes establishing a payment hierarchy which includes rules related to the amount of a bill to be paid.

[c30] The method of claim 1, wherein said step of acquiring user income includes receiving a combined remittance which includes a debt payment and a savings amount.

[c31] The method of claim 1, wherein said step of acquiring user income includes receiving a combined remittance which includes a debt payment and a savings amount, applying hierarchy rules to said combined remittance to determine a portion to be allocated to said user debts and a portion to be allocated to said user savings account.

[c32] The method of claim 1 wherein said step of acquiring said user income includes allowing said user to transfer said user income to said system.

[c33] The method of claim 1, wherein said user income includes at least one of monetary income, non-monetary income, asset, benefit, paycheck, salary, bonuses, commissions, purchase rebate, tax rebates, property, goods, social security, welfare, alimony, child support, rental income, securities-related income, gambling winnings, credits, loyalty points, reward points, coupons, and entry passes.

[c34] The method of claim 1, wherein said user income is obtained from at least one of said user and a third party.

[c35] The method of claim 1, wherein said user income source information includes at least one of income source demographic data, income amount, days of month when

income received, date when receive income, income source routing data, amount of income during a particular timeframe, bonus information, tax refund information, estimated commission information, estimate of the amounts of non-periodic income and dates when non-periodic income will be received.

[c36]   The method of claim 1, wherein said user debts include at least one of monetary liability, non-monetary liability, bills, car payments, loans, mortgages, purchases, voluntary payments, alimony, child support, payment plans, lines of credit, financial losses, gambling losses, and responsibilities.

[c37]   The method of claim 1, wherein said user debt information includes at least one of bill information, name and address of payees, payee account routing information, amount of bills, minimum amounts due, due date, and periodic payment plan information.

[c38]   The method of claim 1, wherein said user debt may be owed by at least one of said user and a third party.

[c39]   The method of claim 1 wherein said user goal information includes at least one of amounts the user desires to pay himself, a financial amount, a limit, milestone, threshold, objective, aspiration, amount of money

needed for a vacation, a major purchase, holiday gifts, education, retirement, a common goal for a group.

[c40] The method of claim 1 wherein said user goal information includes at least one of a one-time total amount, a pre-established amount for a limited time period, a pre-established amount for a continuing time period, a periodic amount which results in a total savings by a certain date, increasing amount, and decreasing amount.

[c41] The method of claim 1 wherein said user goal information is created by at least one of user entry, random generation, a formula, system selection and a third party.

[c42] The method of claim 1, wherein said user goal information is entered before at least one of entering user debt information and entering income amounts.

[c43] The method of claim 1, wherein said user account includes at least one of income source data, date of income deposit, date of income receipt, amounts owed from particular income sources, amounts deposited in the user savings account, and dates of deposits in user savings account.

[c44] The method of claim 1, wherein said user savings account includes at least one of a financial account, sav-

ings account, checking account, money market account, loyalty account, a security, a financial transaction instrument, stored value card, charge card, smart card, transponder, negotiable instrument, and coupon.

[c45] The method of claim 1, wherein said user savings account restricts check-writing privileges, withdrawals, loans, and purchases.

[c46] A method for facilitating savings, said method including: providing user financial information, wherein said financial information includes at least one of user income information, user income source information, user debt information and user goal information; receiving a recommendation, wherein said recommendation includes suggestions for minimizing user debt payments and maximizing user savings; receiving a payment hierarchy based at least in part on said recommendation, wherein said payment hierarchy includes at least a portion of said user income allocated to said user savings account and a portion allocated to said user debts; and, approving a transfer of user income, based upon said payment hierarchy, to at least one of user savings account and user debts.

[c47] The method of claim 46, wherein said approving step in-

cludes at least one of pre-approving all transfers and approving each transfer.

[c48] A method of allocating income to a user savings account and to payees, said method including:

receiving user financial information, wherein said financial information includes at least one of user income information related to user income, user income source information related to user income sources, user debt information related to user debts to payees and user goal information related to user goals;

establishing a payment hierarchy which includes at least a portion of said user income allocated to said user savings account and a portion of said user income allocated to said user debts; and,

transferring at least a portion of said user income, based at least in part upon said payment hierarchy, to said user savings account prior to transferring user income to said user debts.

[c49] The method of claim 48 wherein said transferring step includes providing a recommendation to said user for said user to transfer said user income into said user savings account prior to transferring user income to said user debts.